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LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to you concerning the letter dated 22 December 1994 (S/1994/1439) from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council. Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

In his letter to the President of the Council, the Permanent Representative of Turkey sought to deny, without obvious success, the assertions contained in the letter of the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Vladislav Jovanović, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, of 16 December 1994 (S/1994/1426) that Turkey has been in gross violation of Security Council resolution 713 (1991) on the arms embargo. However, the fact remains that Turkey has not denied publicly and unequivocally the statements of its Defence Minister, Mehmet Golhan, and its former Chief of General Staff, Dogan Gures, who confirmed that Turkey supplied arms to Bosnian Muslims.

The arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims represent a continuation of a one-sided and biased Turkish policy on the crisis in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and are quite consistent with its persistent calls for the lifting of the embargo, which undermines the constructive efforts of the international community to bring about a lasting and just political solution. Although it accuses other countries for the "disintegration" of the former Yugoslavia, it should be borne in mind that Turkey was amongst the first States that recognized former Bosnia and Herzegovina, which led to the outbreak of the conflict.

For its one-sided policy and full support to the regime of Alija Izetbegovic, including arms supplies, Turkey has misused even its contingent within the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which, according to reports from Western European sources, is one of the most persistent and largest violators of United Nations sanctions. The Turkish forces within UNPROFOR continually supply the military industry of Bosnian Muslims with necessary components and parts. The activities of a team of Turkish military instructors in the army of Bosnian Muslims, who are not within UNPROFOR, testify to the direct involvement of Turkey in the civil war in former Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These Turkish moves confirm once again the reservations and objections of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Greece) to the participation of Turkey in UNPROFOR because of the negative historical experience and biased position of Turkey with regard to the Yugoslav crisis.

The policy and concrete actions of Turkey are at variance with its advocacy of peace, pursued obviously only verbally. They reveal the true objective of the policy of Turkey - to use the crisis in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina as an instrument for the realization of the goals and ambitions of Turkey in the Balkans, rendering Turkey a factor of instability in the region.

As to the solution of the crisis in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey persists in upholding an unrealistic political concept - a unitary State under the domination of the Bosnian Muslims - that led to the conflict, mass killings and destruction. At the same time, on the domestic front, Turkey is not prepared even to discuss a multi-ethnic and multicultural concept, hence flagrantly and on a large-scale basis violating the human, national and political rights of the Kurds, waging a real internal war against them.

Since the Permanent Representative of Turkey was unable to provide a viable explanation for the violation of the arms embargo by Turkey, he resorted to unfounded allegations about alleged support by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Bosnian Serbs in armaments, military assistance and logistical support. However, the fact is that the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Srpska has been closed for all transport except humanitarian assistance, food and medicine, which has been certified in all reports by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.